

# COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN AGING DRIVERS IN COLORADO

*Statistically in Colorado, and nationally, aging drivers are increasingly involved in serious bodily injury and fatal vehicle crashes*

*Drivers age 50 and above, increasingly experience medical and cognitive impairment*

**Overview for the  
Transportation Legislation  
Review Committee**



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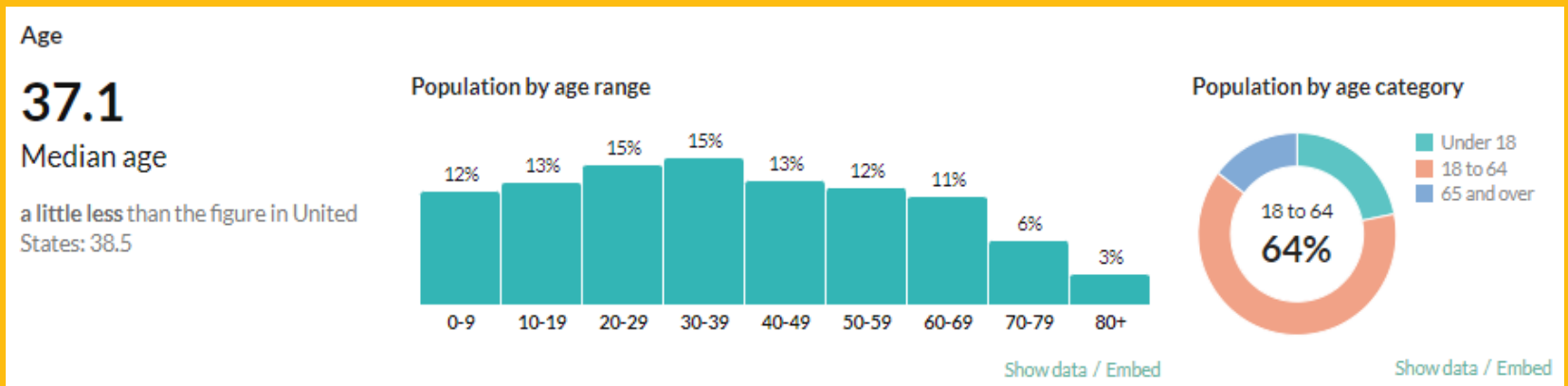
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# Aging Demographics: Colorado Wake Up Call

## The Numbers Are Telling

- ▶ Total Population: **5,758,736**
- ▶ Population **50 years** of age and above: **1,842,796**
- ▶ Equates to **32%** of Colorado's total population
- ▶ By 2030 - One in Five drivers expected to be **65 years** of age or older. **20%**



2019-2021 – Colorado's annual population growth rate was 1.6%.

[HTTPS://CENSUSREPORTER.ORG/PROFILES/04000US08-COLORADO/](https://censusreporter.org/profiles/04000US08-COLORADO/)



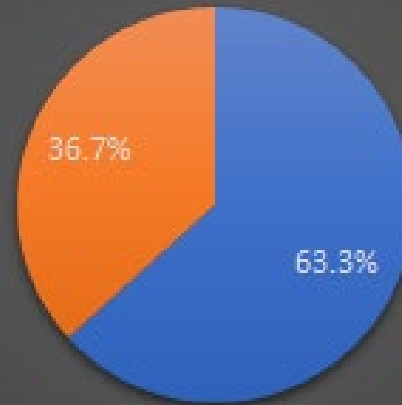
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# CSP Data: Fatal Vehicle Crashes 6-Year Average

## Statewide 6 Year Fatal Picture Caused by Drivers Age 50 and above



■ Drivers 49 and below ■ Drivers 50+ in Age ■



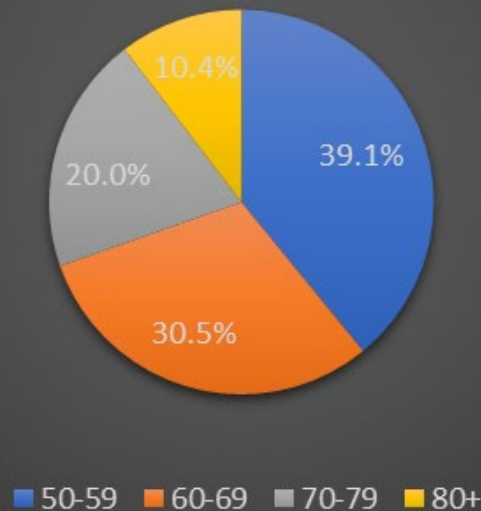
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# CSP Data: Fatal Vehicle Crashes 6-Year Average Age Group Percentage

Statewide 6 Year Fatal model  
Drivers Age 50 and above



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# Meet Dena Kline



- **Wilsonville, OR**
- 80 years old
- 5 Feet Tall and 80 Pounds
- Chemotherapy for Bone Cancer
- Taking Asthma and Pain Medications
- Over a period of 10 hours, stopped multiple times by different law enforcement agencies for concerns about erratic driving



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# Possible Intervention By...

- Family
- Friends
- Physician
- Pharmacist
- Bartender
- Gas station attendant
- First Responders



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# We Must Partner

**INTERDISCIPLINARY  
TEAMS  
=  
CRITICAL SUCCESS  
FACTORS**



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# Next Steps

- **Sept. 23, 2021:** Initial Stakeholders 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop  
Included: Colorado State Patrol, University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, Occupational and Rehabilitative Therapy Consultants, Colorado Department of Transportation
- **2021 – 2022:** Conduct Cognitive Impairment Committee, Integrated Medical-Social Science Research Study
- **2022:** Study Findings and Recommendations



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